

CLAIMS

1. A method for estimating camera motion parameters, the method comprising:

obtaining an observation point set including a plurality of observed point vectors;
computing a plurality of motion output vectors by performing a recursive least squares (RLS) process based on a plurality of motion parameter vectors; and,
comparing the plurality of motion output vectors to the plurality of observed point vectors.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the computing a plurality of motion output vectors and the comparing the plurality of motion output vectors to the plurality of observed point vectors comprise:

initializing a first covariance matrix to a positive value;
setting a first motion parameter estimate vector to an initial value;
determining each of the plurality of motion parameter vectors, the determining comprising:
computing a current covariance matrix;
computing a current motion parameter estimate vector based on the current covariance matrix;
computing a current motion output vector and a current state variable matrix based on the current covariance matrix; and,
comparing the current motion output vector to the observation point set;
and,
repeating the determining a predetermined number of times.

3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the obtaining includes obtaining m number of points and n number of observations for each of the m number of points; and the repeating includes repeating the determining n times.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the setting a first motion parameter estimate vector comprises setting the first motion parameter estimate vector equal to $[1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]'$.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

the computing a current covariance matrix comprises computing

$P_t = P_{t-1} + P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}\phi_t'P_{t-2}$, P_t being the current covariance matrix, P_{t-1} being the prior current covariance matrix, P_{t-2} being the second prior current covariance matrix, ϕ_t being the current state variable matrix, ϕ_{t-1} being the prior current state variable matrix, and I being the identity matrix; and,

the computing a current motion parameter estimate vector comprises

computing $\hat{\theta}_t = \hat{\theta}_{t-1} + [P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}] [y_t - \phi_t\hat{\theta}_{t-1}]$, $\hat{\theta}_t$ being the current motion parameter estimate, $\hat{\theta}_{t-1}$ being the prior current motion parameter estimate, and y_t being the current motion output vector.

6. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

the determining further includes computing a random noise vector of the form

$$e = [e_1 \ e_2 \ e_3];$$

the computing a current motion parameter estimate vector includes computing

the current motion parameter estimate vector which includes a plurality of noise vector transformation parameters; and,

the computing a current motion output vector includes computing the current

motion output vector which includes a transformation of the random noise vector.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the obtaining includes obtaining m number of points and n number of observations for each of the m number of points; and the repeating includes repeating the determining n times.

8. The method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the setting a first motion parameter estimate vector comprises setting the first motion parameter estimate vector equal to $[1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]'$.
9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein:
the computing a current covariance matrix comprises computing

$$P_t = P_{t-1} + P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}\phi_t'P_{t-2}$$
, P_t being the current covariance matrix, P_{t-1} being the prior current covariance matrix, P_{t-2} being the second prior current covariance matrix, ϕ_t being the current state variable matrix including one of the plurality of random noise vectors, ϕ_{t-1} being the prior current state variable matrix, and I being the identity matrix; and,
the computing a current motion parameter estimate vector comprises
computing $\hat{\theta}_t = \hat{\theta}_{t-1} + [P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}] [y_t - \phi_t\hat{\theta}_{t-1}]$, $\hat{\theta}_t$ being the current motion parameter estimate including the transformed one of the plurality of noise vectors, $\hat{\theta}_{t-1}$ being the prior current motion parameter estimate, and y_t being the current motion output vector.
10. A method for determining a filter to correct for camera motion errors, the method comprising:
determining a plurality of desired motion point vectors;
computing a plurality of estimated motion point vectors by means of an RLS algorithm; and,
computing the filter based on a difference between the plurality of estimated motion point vectors and the plurality of desired motion point vectors.
11. The method as set forth in claim 10, wherein:
the determining a plurality of desired motion point vectors comprises determining the desired motion as described by $X_{t+1} = R_d X_t + T_d$, where X_t is the motion

output matrix at time t , X_{t+1} is the motion output matrix at time $t + 1$, R_d is the desired rotation matrix, and T_d is the desired translation vector;

the computing a plurality of estimated motion point vectors comprises computing the estimated motion as described by $X_{t+1} = R_e X_t + T_e + c_e e$, where R_e is the estimated rotation matrix, T_e is the estimated translation vector, c_e is a noise transformation matrix, and e is a random noise vector; and,

the computing the filter comprises:

computing a filter rotation matrix according to $R_f = R_e - R_d$; and,

computing a filter translation vector according to $T_f = T_e - T_d$.

12. The method as set forth in claim 11, further comprising computing a corrected output according to $X_{t+1} = R_f X_t + T_f + c_e e$.

13. The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the RLS algorithm comprises:

obtaining an observation point set including a plurality of observed vectors;

initializing a first covariance matrix to a positive value;

setting a first motion parameter estimate vector to an initial value;

determining each of a plurality of motion parameter vectors, the determining each of a plurality of motion parameter vectors comprising:

computing a current covariance matrix;

computing a random noise vector;

computing a current motion parameter estimate vector based on the current covariance matrix, the current motion parameter estimate vector including the noise transformation matrix;

computing a current motion output vector and a current state variable matrix based on the current covariance matrix, the current motion output vector including the transformed random noise vector; and,
 comparing the current motion output vector to the observation point set;
 and,
 repeating the determining a predetermined number of times.

14. The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the obtaining includes obtaining m number of points and n number of observations for each of the m number of points; and the repeating includes repeating the determining n times.

15. The method as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

the initializing a first covariance matrix comprises initializing the first covariance matrix to a large positive value; and,

the setting a first motion parameter estimate vector comprises setting the first motion parameter estimate vector to $[1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]'$.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15, wherein:

the computing a current covariance matrix comprises computing

$P_t = P_{t-1} + P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}\phi_t'P_{t-2}$, P_t being the current covariance matrix, P_{t-1} being the prior current covariance matrix, P_{t-2} being the second prior current covariance matrix, ϕ_t being the current state variable matrix, ϕ_{t-1} being the prior current state variable matrix, and I being the identity matrix; and,

the computing a current motion parameter estimate vector comprises

computing $\hat{\theta}_t = \hat{\theta}_{t-1} + [P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}] [y_t - \phi_t\hat{\theta}_{t-1}]$, $\hat{\theta}_t$ being the current motion parameter estimate, $\hat{\theta}_{t-1}$ being the prior current motion parameter estimate, and y_t being the current motion output vector.

17. A system for estimating and filtering camera motion parameters, the system comprising:

- a movable digital camera for generating a plurality of 2-dimensional images of a scene or object;
- a control means for translating and rotating the camera along a predetermined trajectory;
- a computer system for receiving and processing the plurality of 2-dimensional images, the computer system including:
- a user interface for receiving instructions from a user and for providing output to a user;
- an image input means for receiving the plurality of 2-dimensional images from the camera;
- a storage means for storing programs and the plurality of images;
- a program to determine a desired motion, the desired motion described by $X_{t+1} = R_d X_t + T_d$, where X_t is the motion output matrix at time t , X_{t+1} is the motion output matrix at time $t + 1$, R_d is the desired rotation matrix, and T_d is the desired translation vector; and,
- a program to compute an estimated motion by means of an RLS program, the estimated motion described by $X_{t+1} = R_e X_t + T_e + c_e e$, where R_e is the estimated rotation matrix, T_e is the estimated translation vector, c_e is a noise transformation matrix, and e is a random noise vector.

18. The system as set forth in claim 17, further comprising:

- a program to compute a filter rotation matrix according to $R_f = R_e - R_d$;
- a program to compute a filter translation vector according to $T_f = T_e - T_d$; and,
- a program to compute a corrected output according to $X_{t+1} = R_f X_t + T_f + c_e e$.

19. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein the RLS program includes:

- a program to obtain an observation point set including a plurality of observed vectors;
- a program to initialize a first covariance matrix to a positive value;
- a program to set a first motion parameter estimate vector to an initial value;
- a program to determine each of a plurality of motion parameter vectors, including:
 - a program to compute a current covariance matrix;
 - a program to compute a random noise vector;
 - a program to compute a current motion parameter estimate vector based on the current covariance matrix, the current motion parameter estimate vector including the noise transformation matrix;
 - a program to compute a current motion output vector and a current state variable matrix based on the current covariance matrix, the current motion output vector including the transformed random noise vector;
 - and,
 - a program to compare the current motion output vector to the observation point set; and,
- a program to repeatedly use the program to determine each of a plurality of motion parameter vectors a predetermined number of times.

20. The method as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

- the RLS program is configured to obtain m number of points and n number of observations for each of the m number of points;
- the program to repeatedly use the program to determine each of a plurality of motion parameter vectors is configured to repeatedly use the program to determine each of a plurality of motion parameter vectors n times;

the program to set a first motion parameter estimate vector is configured to set

the first motion parameter estimate vector to $[1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]'$;

the program to compute a current covariance matrix is configured to compute

$P_t = P_{t-1} + P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}\phi_t'P_{t-2}$, P_t being the current covariance matrix, P_{t-1} being the prior current covariance matrix, P_{t-2} being the second prior current covariance matrix, ϕ_t being the current state variable matrix, ϕ_{t-1} being the prior current state variable matrix, and I being the identity matrix; and,

the program to compute a current motion parameter estimate vector is

configured to compute $\hat{\theta}_t = \hat{\theta}_{t-1} + [P_{t-1}\phi_t[I + \phi_t'P_{t-1}\phi_t]^{-1}] [y_t - \phi_t\hat{\theta}_{t-1}]$, $\hat{\theta}_t$ being the current motion parameter estimate, $\hat{\theta}_{t-1}$ being the prior current motion parameter estimate, and y_t being the current motion output vector.